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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 571
By Phillips

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Rick Insell and the 1999-2000 Shelbyville Central High School girls' basketball team on capturing the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA State Tournament championship.

"On the city's eastern border,
Reared against the sky
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
As the years go by.

Forward ever be our watchword,
Conquer and prevail.
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
C-H-S All Hail!"

Shelbyville Central High School Alma Mater

WHEREAS, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines consistent as "steady continuity, free from variation or contradiction, possessing firmness or coherence"; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee and in Tennessee high school athletic circles, the definition of "consistent" is the fabulous Shelbyville Central High School girls' basketball team, which, under

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the exemplary leadership of their brilliant head coach Rick Insell, has won the 2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA State Tournament, their ninth such crown; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the 1999-2000 state title, Shelbyville also won the state championship in 1964, 1974, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1995; and

WHEREAS, their consistent record of hoops excellence has included consistent high national rankings, as they claimed two National Championships, in 1989 and 1991 and have twice been named the second best team in the nation, in 1986 and 1990; and

WHEREAS, in December 1999; the powerful Eaglettes competed against 15 other top high school teams in the nation in the prestigious Nike Santa Barbara Tour of Champions, and this rugged schedule prepared them well for the rigors of the tough competition of championship play; and

WHEREAS, the Shelbyville ladies won the TSSAA District 8 AAA Tournament by impressively defeating Coffee County 62-46 and Lincoln County 60-45; and

WHEREAS, this exceptionally talented squad next soundly beat Riverdale 54-33, Cookeville 71-55, and Oakland 53-34 to win their regional tournament; and

WHEREAS, the old gold/royal blue shown brightly as Shelbyville crushed Lincoln County 53-38 and Bradley County 69-35 to add the Sectional trophy to their numerous accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, their many fiercely loyal fans, and countless other people who admire outstanding hardwood play, leaped for joy as they watched the Eaglettes make a firm and unquestioned statement as to which squad was the best team in the state by winning the State Tournament with triumphs over Overton County 79-52, Jackson North Side 54-42, and Memphis Hamilton 65-43, in the championship game. Hamilton was the number-one-ranked team in the state; and

WHEREAS, Shelbyville had a marvelous overall season record of 31-5, having won their last 24 games in a row; and

WHEREAS, a few of the countless, glowing terms that have been used to describe the team are: hardworking, dedicated, diligent, adroit, agile, awesome, inspiring, role models, student leaders, winners on the court and off, historic, proficient, memorable and solid; this was clearly a team that was able to turn setbacks into setups for comebacks; and

WHEREAS, **Rick Insell**, in his 23rd season as head coach at Shelbyville Central High School, won his seventh state title and continues to serve as a noble mentor to his players and to Shelbyville Central students, in general. The later success of his former players, many of whom are now leaders in Bedford County and in their respective communities, is directly traceable to the strong foundation he has provided and the valuable lessons they learned from him; and

WHEREAS, Coach Insell's unparalleled record of success includes 627 wins and only 122 losses, a fine .837 winning percentage; two *USA Today* National Championships; two *USA Today* National Runners-up; and five state runners-up finishes; 13 regional titles; and 19 district championships. His teams have received the TSSAA Distinguished Award for Academic Success twelve consecutive years, from 1989-2000; this coveted award is based on the team's grade point average, which has ranged from 3.4 in its lowest year to 3.98 in its highest; and

WHEREAS, he has been specially recognized by selection as the *USA Today* National Coach of the Year twice, in 1989 and 1991; as WBCA/Converse National High School Coach of the Year twice, in 1990 and 1992; as Tennessee State Coach of the Year six times; as *The Tennessean* Coach of the Year seven times; and as District 8 AAA Coach of the Year nine times; and

WHEREAS, each of his expertly trained and well-prepared **Assistant Coaches, Labora McCroskey, Tim Fleming, and Mark Potts** have performed their duties with exceptional skill and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: starters junior forward **Abi Ramsey**, who scored 73 points in the State Tournament, the ninth highest total in the storied history of the tournament and was chosen Tournament Most Valuable Player and the District 8 AAA Tournament Most Valuable Player and was selected All-Regional Tournament; senior forward **Jennifer Wilhelm**, who was named All-State Tournament, All-Regional Tournament, and All-District Tournament; junior guard **Tynisha Alexander**, who was chosen All-State Tournament, and All-District Tournament; sophomore forward/post player **Ashley Johnson**, who was named All-Regional Tournament; and junior post player **Casey Bradford**; and

WHEREAS, the other members of the squad were: seniors guard **Kelly Gibbs**, forward **Debra Nelson**, and post player **Angie Ester**; sophomores guard **Stephanie Bell**, guard **Lauren Wood**, and post player **Jessica Whitaker**; and freshmen guard/forward **Whitney Tate**, forward **Nikki Houston**, forward **Katie Canon**; each of them contributed significantly to this great season for the Eaglettes; and

WHEREAS, **Principal Don Boyd** and **Athletic Director Jimmy Williams**, have been very supportive of the team; and

WHEREAS, managers **Kayla West** and **Sylvia Smith** have done a great job in support of the Eaglettes; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of legendary squads such as the Shelbyville Central High School girls' basketball team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Rick Insell and the 1999-2000 Shelbyville Central High School girls' basketball team, a team whose destiny could not be denied. We thank them for their numerous contributions to Tennessee high school basketball

and salute them for the role they have played in helping the sport gain the tremendous popularity it now enjoys. We extend our best wishes for success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.